

The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D. C. 20505

7 July 1980

Dear Herschel,

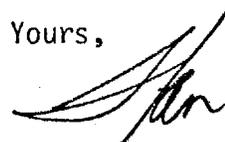
It was nice to hear from you and fun to read your article on the Defense budget. I say "fun" because I haven't kept up with Defense programs too closely in the past three years. It certainly was not enjoyable to recognize the bleak prospect that you lay out so clearly. I really wish you'd put on another page and told us what to do!

A few weeks ago, Wes McDonald asked me to give a talk to the quarterly luncheon for Naval Aviators in Washington. I think he thought I would dwell on the CIA and intelligence. Instead, I took up a small portion of the problem you handled in your article--how can we get enough aircraft carriers and aircraft to do the job that the country needs to have us do today. I'll enclose a copy of those remarks as adapted for possible publication in the Proceedings.

Your figures on the relative cost in real terms of aircraft are tremendously impressive--from \$5.4 million in 1964 to perhaps \$30 million today. As I mentioned in my talk, lesser sophistication and hence lesser price seems to me to be one of the only routes to go. My old cohort George Haering wrote to me after the talk to say that there aren't even inexpensive alternatives today (the less sophisticated apparently are high-priced also). I can't help thinking, however, that that is because we haven't looked at a more simple alternative. Clearly, whatever you build has to be able to do the job, but most of what we build today won't do the job because we can't maintain it or operate it anyway, e.g., ~~CH~~-53!

Wish there were some way to be more optimistic about all this. I did enjoy poking my nose back into the DoD just for a few minutes. Thanks and warm regards.

Yours,



STANSFIELD TURNER

Enclosure

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